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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Masaaki AOKI et al.

Serial No.: 09/445,827

Filed: Dec. 14, 1999

MAGNETIC FIELD GENERATOR FOR MRI



PATENT

Group: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Washington, D.C.
August 1, 2000

Honorable Director for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial evaluation, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An MRI magnetic field generator that has a pair of pole pieces facing each other so as to form [a] an air gap and that generates a magnetic field in said air gap, wherein said pole pieces each comprise a main component formed from a plurality [consisting] of laminated blocks comprising silicon steel sheets, and a magnetic annular protrusion disposed on the side of said main component facing the air gap, the silicon steel sheets in at least the void-facing portion of said